

1      **CLAIMS**

2      1. A method for operating an electronic program guide comprising the  
3                following steps:

4                logging an amount of time that a particular channel is selected for viewing;

5                and

6                generating a query to identify channels based upon a percentage of the time  
7                that the channels are selected.

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9      2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the following steps:  
10                presenting, to the viewer, a list of the channels identified by the query; and  
11                ordering the channels within the list according to the percentage of time that  
12                the channels are selected for viewing so that channels which are  
13                selected a higher percentage of the time appear at one place in the  
14                list and channels which are selected a lower percentage of the time  
15                appear at another place in the list.

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17      3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a  
18                query to identify channels which have been selected at least a threshold  
19                amount of time to eliminate rarely selected channels from identification.

4. An electronic program guide resident in a computer-readable storage medium and executable on a processor to perform the steps of the method recited in claim 1.
  5. A viewer computing unit programmed to perform the steps of the method recited in claim 1.
  6. A computer-readable storage medium which directs a computer to perform the steps of the method recited in claim 1.
  7. A method for operating an electronic program guide comprising the following steps:  
logging an amount of time that a particular channel is selected for viewing;  
generating a query to identify channels based upon a percentage of the time  
that the channels are selected; and  
saving the query in a hierarchic query structure.